

June 30, 2006

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U.S. Congresswoman Allyson Y. Schwartz, 13th District of Pennsylvania

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What do you believe Congress should do to address rising energy prices and America's growing dependence on foreign oil?

48

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Dear Friend,

As families and individuals across the Philadelphia region look forward to celebrating July 4th with a trip to the shore or Poconos, or to local barbeques, high gas prices remain a concern for all of us.

Like you, I believe that the United States must work to end our dependence on foreign oil. This dependence puts our national security at risk and results in high energy prices for all consumers. It is simply unacceptable that our nation - home to the best and brightest scientists, entrepreneurs, and researchers – has failed to aggressively move forward towards a policy of energy independence.

To meet our nation's long term energy needs, I believe we have a responsibility to increase our investment in research and development of cleaner, more efficient energy technologies. This will not only move us towards energy independence, it would create tens of thousands of jobs and ensure that America leads in the global economy.

To address our short term needs, I am pushing for both greater scrutiny into possible market manipulation by oil and gas companies and to expand our nation's oil refining capacity. And I will continue to push for tough penalties for those companies that unfairly manipulate prices and gouge consumers at the pump.

In addition, I am working to ensure that individuals and businesses have the information they need to lessen their own individual energy costs. Below, I have listed

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**Do you believe America's
dependence on foreign oil
is a national security
threat?**

Select One



49

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Send

tips you may find useful to help bring down your own
gas and cooling/heating costs.

For more information on my work in Congress on your
behalf please visit my website -
www.house.gov/Schwartz.

*To sign up today to keep receiving my email - even
during the upcoming Congressional Blackout Period -
please be sure to click yes on the sign up question on
the left side of this email.*

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz

TIPS TO SAVE AT THE PUMP

DRIVING TIPS

1). **Slow Down.** For every mile per hour (mph) that you
drive above 55 mph, your vehicle will lose roughly one
percent of its fuel economy. For instance, a car that
averages 30 miles per gallon (mpg) when traveling at
55 mph, may average only 28.5 mpg at 60 mph. [*Please
note that while this may vary between makes and
models of vehicles, it is a good rule of thumb for more
cost-effective driving*].

2). **Use the “Flow-Through Ventilation System” To
Cool Your Car.** Using the flow through ventilation
system to cool off your car rather than turning on the air
conditioner improves your vehicle's fuel efficiency. On a
hot day, by merely not running the car's air conditioner
you can improve mileage efficiency by as much as 21
percent. Additionally, using the ventilation feature is
more efficient than rolling down the windows, which
creates air drag and, in turns, lowers gas mileage.

3). **Turn Off Your Car When You Aren't Driving.**
Leaving your engine running while you are not driving
wastes gas – costing you money. For example, if 145
million passenger vehicles were left idle for five minutes
per day, four million gallons of gasoline would be
wasted. So, when stopped for more than 30 seconds,
consider turning off your engine.

4). **Take Only What You Need When Traveling.**

Adding additional weight to an automobile reduces its fuel efficiency. For instance, driving with sports equipment in the trunk when it is only needed one day a week adds unnecessary weight to the car. So, consider keeping your car clear of unneeded objects. Also, if you are planning on taking a road trip, pack the car carefully in order to avoid taking too much heavy luggage.

5). **Plan Your Trip.** Driving your car is necessary for commuting to work and running errands, but it might not be required for a trip to the corner store to pick up milk. Try to combine errands that require use of your car so you can avoid making multiple trips. If you live close to public transit, consider how you might more effectively utilize these services as part of your daily routine. Also, avoid rush-hour trips and congested areas to cut down on travel time.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

6). **Keep Tires Inflated to the Appropriate Levels.** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, nearly four million gallons of gasoline could be saved nationwide each day if all vehicle tires were kept inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure. So, when you stop to fill-up your gas tank make sure your tires are inflated to the proper levels.

7). **Perform Regular Maintenance on Your Car.** By performing regular maintenance on your car, you can take some simple steps to improve its longevity and improve its efficiency. For example, replacing clogged air filters can improve your car's efficiency by as much as 10 percent. It also helps to use the recommended grade of motor oil for your car engine.

AT THE PUMP

8). **Use the Fuel Recommended for Your Vehicle.** Unless your car requires premium, high-octane fuels, consider purchasing the lowest grade of gasoline. According to AAA, premium gas accounts for about 20 percent of total gasoline sales in this country, despite the fact fewer than 10 percent of cars on the road were designed to burn the higher-octane fuel. Also, please note that using a higher-grade of gasoline in your car does not help increase its fuel economy or performance.

9). **Check the Fuel Economy of Your Vehicle.**

Whenever you fill up your car, check your mileage to ensure that you are getting the fuel efficiency that you expect from your vehicle. By keeping an eye on this, you will be able to quickly notice whether your car's fuel efficiency is decreasing or if there is a mechanical problem that needs to be fixed.

10). **Shop at Local Gas Stations.** Locally owned gas stations are required by law to meet the same standards as the national gas chains. Shop around, compare prices, and consider purchasing gas from locally owned stores, which might save you a few cents per gallon.

LONG-TERM OPTIONS

11). **Purchase a More Fuel Efficient Vehicle.** If you are in the market for a new automobile, consider buying one that is more fuel efficient. The difference between a car that gets 20 miles per gallon and one that gets 30 miles per gallon could save you \$550 or more in fuel costs per year. The U.S. Department of Energy has a [website](#) that can assist you with comparing the fuel efficiency of different automobiles.

BUSINESS ENERGY SAVING TIPS

GETTING STARTED

1). **Educate Yourself.** Download the Environmental Protection Agency's "[Putting Energy into Profits](#)" report. Or call 1-888-STAR-YES for more information about how your business can save energy.

2). **Teach Your Employees.** Make saving energy part of your company's philosophy. Teach employees to make energy saving decisions such as ensuring that computers, lights, and equipment are all turned off before leaving the office.

IN THE OFFICE

3). **Be a Smart Shopper.** Purchase products that are marked with the "Energy Star" label to ensure energy efficiency.

4). **Change Your Light Bulbs.** Replace regular light-bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, which can save hundreds of dollars in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb.

5). **Alternative Scheduling.** Consider alternative scheduling for employees, such as 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., so they can avoid driving in rush hour traffic. This will reduce gas usage, decrease electricity demand during peak hours, and save your business money.

ON THE ROAD

6). **Carpooling.** Encourage employees to carpool and initiate a parking program that rewards carpoolers. Not only does this save your employees money, but it is also helps individuals build relationships and camaraderie.

7). **Plan Ahead.** Businesses should plan delivery schedules and car trips to maximize fuel efficiency. Encourage employees to use appropriate vehicles for their trips. For instance, don't use less efficient vehicles unless necessary.

Contact Information

Washington Office
423 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
phone: 202/225-6111
fax: 202/226-0611

Montgomery County Office
706 West Avenue
Jenkintown, PA 19046
phone: 215/517-6572
fax: 215/517-6575

Philadelphia Office
7219 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19135
phone: 215/335-3355
fax: 215/333-4508

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